

**From:** Ritchey, Gail (COT)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2008 10:26 AM

**To:** COT Constitutional CIO Security Contacts; COT Cabinet CIO Security Contacts; CTC Members

**Cc:** COT Exchange Administrators; COT Security Alert Contacts; COT Security Contact COT-Support; COT Security Contact Pass; COT Security Contact Self-Support; COT Technical Contacts; SecurityContacts Group

**Subject:** Credit Union Phishing Email

## COT Security Alert

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State email users may receive a phishing email as the example below shows.

Subject: Urgent Notification

Message from Commonwealth Credit Union Customer Service  
Account Suspended  
Date: 05/15/2008

All Commonwealth Credit Union accounts were recently update  
with a new security enhancement.

For your security, we have temporary suspended your  
account.

To activate your account please call urgent at 716-478-  
6247.

Please note 716-478-6247.

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Phishing is communication designed to entice the recipient into giving personal information for the purpose of fraud or account access. Phishing emails may have false websites, but may also have false phone numbers where the person answering will simply take personal information verbally rather than from an online form.

Criminals will use all kinds of social engineering tactics to fraud the public, including scare tactics, appeals to good citizenship or promises of wealth. Users should be aware that banks and other financial institutions **do not use email** to alert customers of problems with accounts. If customers feel the need to check on their account, they should **initiate** the call and use the number listed in the public phone book for that institution to assure the phone number is legitimate.

Users should be encouraged to be aware of phishing threats. They are a constant menace and change frequently to take people off guard and elude detection. For more information about the dangers of phishing emails see <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/phishing/identify.msp> or <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>.

*NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.*

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